

**We claim:**

1        1. A method of tracking consumer activity on a decentralized digital  
2 network comprising plural disparately located nodes each providing an  
3 associated interface, the method comprising:

4            (a) embedding distinctive foreign objects within interfaces provided  
5 by the plural network nodes;

6            (b) challenging a consumer to locate said embedded distinctive  
7 foreign objects by visiting the plural network node interfaces with a  
8 browsing device coupled to the network;

9            (c) tracking visitation by the consumer of said embedded objects via  
10 digital messaging exchanged over the digital network;

11           (d) recording information developed by said tracking step in a  
12 consumer profile database; and

13           (e) requesting compensation from the plural network nodes for each  
14 said visitation by the consumer.

1        2. The method of claim 1 further including registering the consumer  
2 over the digital network by requesting demographic information from the  
3 consumer for insertion into the database.

1        3. The method of claim 1 further including posting links to said plural  
2 network nodes on a marketing solutions provider website, and leading the  
3 consumer to the plural network nodes by encouraging the consumer to  
4 exercise the links.

1        4. The method of claim 1 wherein the tracking step includes  
2 transmitting a message from the plural network nodes to said database in  
3 response to indication that the consumer has located the embedded objects.

1       5. The method of claim 1 wherein the tracking step further comprises  
2 sensing, with said plural network nodes, whether the consumer selects the  
3 embedded objects to thereby indicate that the consumer has found the  
4 embedded objects.

1       6. The method of claim 1 further including giving the consumer an  
2 award based at least in part on the tracking step.

1       7. The method of claim 1 wherein the embedded foreign objects  
2 provide a designation of origin.

1       8. The method of claim 1 further including transmitting information  
2 from the consumer profile database to a selected network node visited by the  
3 consumer.

1       9. The method of claim 8 further including inserting the transmitted  
2 information into a form to thereby assist the consumer in conducting a  
3 transaction on the selected network node.

1       10. The method of claim 8 including conditioning said transmitting  
2 step on authorization by the consumer.

1       11. A system for tracking consumer activity on a decentralized digital  
2 network comprising plural disparately located nodes each providing an  
3 associated interface in which a distinctive foreign object has been hidden,  
4 the consumer using a browsing appliance coupled to the network to visit the  
5 plural network nodes, the system comprising:

6       a message receiver coupled to the network, said message receiver  
7 receiving messages over the network from any of the plural nodes indicating  
8 that the consumer has visited the node and located a distinctive foreign  
9 object hidden therein;

10        a database coupled to the message receiver, the database tracking  
11    which of the hidden objects the consumer has located; and  
12        a reward arrangement that rewards the consumer based on the  
13    database contents

1        12. The system of claim 1 further including a registration  
2    arrangement coupled to the network the registration arrangement registering  
3    the consumer over the digital network by requesting demographic  
4    information from the consumer and inserting the requested information into  
5    the database.

1        13. The system of claim 1 further including a marketing solutions  
2    provider website coupled to the network, the website posting links to said  
3    plural network nodes that lead the consumer to the plural network nodes.

1        14. The system of claim 1 wherein the message receiver receives  
2    messages from the plural network nodes in response to indication that the  
3    consumer has located the embedded objects.

1        15. The system of claim 1 wherein the message receiver receives  
2    messages indicating whether the consumer selects the embedded objects at  
3    the plural nodes, to thereby indicate that the consumer has found the  
4    embedded objects.

1        16. The system of claim 1 wherein the embedded foreign objects  
2    provide a designation of origin.

1        17. The system of claim 1 further including a data transmitter that  
2    transmits information from the consumer profile database to a selected  
3    network node visited by the consumer.

1        18. The system of claim 17 wherein the data transmitter causes the  
2 transmitted information to be into a form to thereby assist the consumer in  
3 conducting a transaction with the selected network node.

1        19. The system of claim 17 including wherein the data transmitter is  
2 capable of conditioning the data transmission on authorization by the  
3 consumer.

1        20. A method of facilitating transactions over a decentralized digital  
2 network via at least one consumer's browsing appliance, the method  
3 comprising:

4            (a) acquiring information identifying a consumer;  
5            (b) storing the acquired information in a database at a first network  
6 node;  
7            (c) receiving, at the first node, a message indicating that the consumer  
8 wishes to conduct a transaction at a second node; and  
9            (d) transmitting at least some of the stored information from the first  
10 node to the second node.

1        21. The method of claim 20 wherein the transmitting step is  
2 conditioned on the consumer's consent.

1        22. The method of claim 20 wherein the transmitting step includes:  
2            transmitting the information to the consumer's browsing appliance;  
3            and  
4            conditioning further transmission of the information to the second  
5 node on consumer action at the browsing appliance.

1        23. The method of claim 20 wherein the transmitting step includes at  
2        least partially filling in a form with the information, and transmitting the  
3        partially filled in form to the second node.